United Nations E/CN.17/1999/L.1

Economic and Social Council

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Commission on Sustainable Development
Seventh session
19–30 April 1999
Item 4 of the provisional agenda*
Cross-sectoral theme: consumption and production patterns, including recommendations for sustainable consumption for inclusion in the United Nations guidelines for consumer protection, as requested by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1997/53

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chairman, Navid Hanif (Pakistan), on the basis of informal consultations

The Commission on Sustainable Development recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Expansion of the United Nations guidelines on consumer protection to include sustainable consumption

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 39/248 of 9 April 1985, in which the Assembly adopted the guidelines for consumer protection,

Noting that the Commission on Sustainable Development, at its third session, recommended that the guidelines for consumer protection be expanded to include guidelines for sustainable consumption,[1]

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolutions 1995/53 of 28 July 1995 and 1997/53 of 23 July 1997, in which the Council requested the Secretary-General, *inter alia*, to elaborate guidelines in the area of sustainable consumption patterns,

* E/CN.17/1999/1

[1] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1995, Supplement No. 12* (E/1995/32), chap. I, para. 45, sect. F.

99-08314 (E) 070499

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General[2] and the recommendations of the Interregional Expert Group Meeting on Consumer Protection and Sustainable Consumption, held at São Paulo, Brazil, from 28 to 30 January 1998,[3]

Noting with appreciation the organization by the Bureau of the seventh session of the Commission on Sustainable Development of open-ended consultations among member States, as requested by the Council in its decision 1998/215 of 23 July 1998,

Aware that the need remains great for assistance in the area of consumer protection, particularly in developing countries and countries with economies in transition,

Recognizing the impact that the guidelines have had in many countries in promoting just, equitable and sustainable economic and social development through their implementation by Governments,

Also recognizing the important role of civil society, in particular of non-governmental organizations, in promoting the implementation of the guidelines,

1. *Decides* to transmit to the General Assembly, for consideration with a view to their adoption, the draft guidelines for consumer protection expanded to include sustainable consumption, as contained in the annex;

2. *Urges* Member States, other entities of the United Nations system and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to continue their efforts to implement effectively the United Nations guidelines for consumer protection.

Annex

United Nations guidelines for consumer protection
(As expanded in 1999)

I. Objectives

1. Taking into account the interests and needs of consumers in all countries, particularly those in developing countries; recognizing that consumers often face imbalances in economic terms, educational levels, and bargaining power; and bearing in mind that consumers should have the right of access to non-hazardous products, as well as the right to promote just, equitable and sustainable economic and social development and environmental protection, these guidelines for consumer protection have the following objectives:

(a) To assist countries in achieving or maintaining adequate protection for their population as consumers;

(b) To facilitate production and distribution patterns responsive to the needs and desires of consumers;

(c) To encourage high levels of ethical conduct for those engaged in the production and distribution of goods and services to consumers;

(d) To assist countries in curbing abusive business practices by all enterprises at the national and international levels which adversely affect consumers;

[2] E/CN.17/1998/5.

[3] See E/CN.17/1998/5, annex.

(e) To facilitate the development of independent consumer groups;

(f) To further international cooperation in the field of consumer protection;

(g) To encourage the development of market conditions which provide consumers with greater choice at lower prices;

(h) To promote sustainable consumption.

II. General principles

2. Governments should develop or maintain a strong consumer protection policy, taking into account the Guidelines set out below and relevant international agreements. In so doing, each Government should set its own priorities for the protection of consumers in accordance with the economic, social and environmental circumstances of the country and the needs of its population, bearing in mind the costs and benefits of proposed measures.

3. The legitimate needs which the guidelines are intended to meet are the following:

(a) The protection of consumers from hazards to their health and safety;

(b) The promotion and protection of the economic interests of consumers;

(c) Access of consumers to adequate information to enable them to make informed choices according to individual wishes and needs;

(d) Consumer education, including education on the environmental, social and economic impacts of consumer choice;

(e) Availability of effective consumer redress;

(f) Freedom to form consumer and other relevant groups or organizations and the opportunity of such organizations to present their views in decision-making processes affecting them;

(g) The promotion of sustainable consumption patterns.

4. Unsustainable patterns of production and consumption, particularly in industrialized countries, are the major cause of the continued deterioration of the global environment. All countries should strive to promote sustainable consumption patterns; developed countries should take the lead in achieving sustainable consumption patterns; developing countries should seek to achieve sustainable consumption patterns in their development process, having due regard to the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. The special situation and needs of developing countries in this regard should be fully taken into account.

5. Policies for promoting sustainable consumption should take into account the goals of eradicating poverty, satisfying the basic human needs of all members of society, and reducing inequality within and between countries.

6. Governments should provide or maintain adequate infrastructure to develop, implement and monitor consumer protection policies. Special care should be taken to ensure that measures for consumer protection are implemented for the benefit of all sectors of the population, particularly the rural population and people living in poverty.

7. All enterprises should obey the relevant laws and regulations of the countries in which they do business. They should also conform to the appropriate provisions of international standards for consumer protection to which the competent authorities of the country in question have agreed. (Hereinafter references to international standards in the guidelines should be viewed in the context of this paragraph.)

8. The potential positive role of universities and public and private enterprises in research should be considered when developing consumer protection policies.

III. Guidelines

9. The following guidelines should apply both to home-produced goods and services and to imports.

10. In applying any procedures or regulations for consumer protection, due regard should be given to ensuring that they do not become barriers to international trade and that they are consistent with international trade obligations.

A. Physical safety

11. Governments should adopt or encourage the adoption of appropriate measures, including legal systems, safety regulations, national or international standards, voluntary standards and the maintenance of safety records to ensure that products are safe for either intended or normally foreseeable use.

12. Appropriate policies should ensure that goods produced by manufacturers are safe for either intended or normally foreseeable use. Those responsible for bringing goods to the market, in particular suppliers, exporters, importers, retailers and the like (hereinafter referred to as "distributors"), should ensure that while in their care these goods are not rendered unsafe through improper handling or storage and that while in their care they do not become hazardous through improper handling or storage. Consumers should be instructed in the proper use of goods and should be informed of the risks involved in intended or normally foreseeable use. Vital safety information should be conveyed to consumers by internationally understandable symbols wherever possible.

13. Appropriate policies should ensure that if manufacturers or distributors become aware of unforeseen hazards after products are placed on the market, they should notify the relevant authorities and, as appropriate, the public without delay. Governments should also consider ways of ensuring that consumers are properly informed of such hazards.

14. Governments should, where appropriate, adopt policies under which, if a product is found to be seriously defective and/or to constitute a substantial and severe hazard even when properly used, manufacturers and/or distributors should recall it and replace or modify it, or substitute another product for it; if it is not possible to do this within a reasonable period of time, the consumer should be adequately compensated.

B. Promotion and protection of consumers' economic interests

15. Government policies should seek to enable consumers to obtain optimum benefit from their economic resources. They should also seek to achieve the goals of satisfactory production and performance standards, adequate distribution methods, fair business practices, informative marketing and effective protection against practices which could adversely affect the economic interests of consumers and the exercise of choice in the market place.

16. Governments should intensify their efforts to prevent practices which are damaging to the economic interests of consumers through ensuring that manufacturers, distributors

and others involved in the provision of goods and services adhere to established laws and mandatory standards. Consumer organizations should be encouraged to monitor adverse practices, such as the adulteration of foods, false or misleading claims in marketing and service frauds.

17. Governments should develop, strengthen or maintain, as the case may be, measures relating to the control of restrictive and other abusive business practices which may be harmful to consumers, including means for the enforcement of such measures. In this connection, Governments should be guided by their commitment to the Set of Multilaterally Agreed Equitable Principles and Rules for the Control of Restrictive Business Practices adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 35/63 of 5 December 1980.

18. Governments should adopt or maintain policies that make clear the responsibility of the producer to ensure that goods meet reasonable demands of durability, utility and reliability, and are suited to the purpose for which they are intended, and that the seller should see that these requirements are met. Similar policies should apply to the provision of services.

19. Governments should encourage fair and effective competition in order to provide consumers with the greatest range of choice among products and services at the lowest cost.

20. Governments should, where appropriate, see to it that manufacturers and/or retailers ensure adequate availability of reliable after-sales service and spare parts.

21. Consumers should be protected from such contractual abuses as one-sided standard contracts, exclusion of essential rights in contracts, and unconscionable conditions of credit by sellers.

22. Promotional marketing and sales practices should be guided by the principle of fair treatment of consumers and should meet legal requirements. This requires the provision of the information necessary to enable consumers to take informed and independent decisions, as well as measures to ensure that the information provided is accurate.

23. Governments should encourage all concerned to participate in the free flow of accurate information on all aspects of consumer products.

24. Consumer access to accurate information about the environmental impact of products and services should be encouraged through such means as product profiles, environmental reports by industry, information centres for consumers, voluntary and transparent eco-labelling programmes and product information hotlines.

25. Governments, in close collaboration with manufacturers, distributors and consumer organizations, should take measures regarding misleading environmental claims or information in advertising and other marketing activities. The development of appropriate advertising codes and standards for the regulation and verification of environmental claims should be encouraged.

26. Governments should, within their own national context, encourage the formulation and implementation by business, in cooperation with consumer organizations, of codes of marketing and other business practices to ensure adequate consumer protection. Voluntary agreements may also be established jointly by business, consumer organizations and other interested parties. These codes should receive adequate publicity.

27. Governments should regularly review legislation pertaining to weights and measures and assess the adequacy of the machinery for its enforcement.

C. Standards for the safety and quality of consumer goods and services

28. Governments should, as appropriate, formulate or promote the elaboration and implementation of standards, voluntary and other, at the national and international levels for the safety and quality of goods and services and give them appropriate publicity. National standards and regulations for product safety and quality should be reviewed from time to time, in order to ensure that they conform, where possible, to generally accepted international standards.

29. Where a standard lower than the generally accepted international standard is being applied because of local economic conditions, every effort should be made to raise that standard as soon as possible.

30. Governments should encourage and ensure the availability of facilities to test and certify the safety, quality and performance of essential consumer goods and services.

D. Distribution facilities for essential consumer goods and services

31. Governments should, where appropriate, consider:

(a) Adopting or maintaining policies to ensure the efficient distribution of goods and services to consumers; where appropriate, specific policies should be considered to ensure the distribution of essential goods and services where this distribution is endangered, as could be the case particularly in rural areas. Such policies could include assistance for the creation of adequate storage and retail facilities in rural centres, incentives for consumer self-help and better control of the conditions under which essential goods and services are provided in rural areas;

(b) Encouraging the establishment of consumer cooperatives and related trading activities, as well as information about them, especially in rural areas.

E. Measures enabling consumers to obtain redress

32. Governments should establish or maintain legal and/or administrative measures to enable consumers or, as appropriate, relevant organizations to obtain redress through formal or informal procedures that are expeditious, fair, inexpensive and accessible. Such procedures should take particular account of the needs of low-income consumers.

33. Governments should encourage all enterprises to resolve consumer disputes in a fair, expeditious and informal manner, and to establish voluntary mechanisms, including advisory services and informal complaints procedures, which can provide assistance to consumers.

34. Information on available redress and other dispute-resolving procedures should be made available to consumers.

F. Education and information programmes

35. Governments should develop or encourage the development of general consumer education and information programmes, including information on the environmental impacts of consumer choices and behaviour and the possible implications, including benefits and costs, of changes in consumption, bearing in mind the cultural traditions of the people

concerned. The aim of such programmes should be to enable people to act as discriminating consumers, capable of making an informed choice of goods and services, and conscious of their rights and responsibilities. In developing such programmes, special attention should be given to the needs of disadvantaged consumers, in both rural and urban areas, including low-income consumers and those with low or non-existent literacy levels. Consumer groups, business and other relevant organizations of civil society should be involved in these educational efforts.

36. Consumer education should, where appropriate, become an integral part of the basic curriculum of the educational system, preferably as a component of existing subjects.

37. Consumer education and information programmes should cover such important aspects of consumer protection as the following:

(a) Health, nutrition, prevention of food-borne diseases and food adulteration;

(b) Product hazards;

(c) Product labelling;

(d) Relevant legislation, how to obtain redress, and agencies and organizations for consumer protection;

(e) Information on weights and measures, prices, quality, credit conditions and availability of basic necessities;

(f) Environmental protection; and

(g) Efficient use of materials, energy and water.

38. Governments should encourage consumer organizations and other interested groups, including the media, to undertake education and information programmes, including on the environmental impacts of consumption patterns and on the possible implications, including benefits and costs, of changes in consumption, particularly for the benefit of low-income consumer groups in rural and urban areas.

39. Business should, where appropriate, undertake or participate in factual and relevant consumer education and information programmes.

40. Bearing in mind the need to reach rural consumers and illiterate consumers, Governments should, as appropriate, develop or encourage the development of consumer information programmes in the mass media.

41. Governments should organize or encourage training programmes for educators, mass media professionals and consumer advisers, to enable them to participate in carrying out consumer information and education programmes.

G. Promotion of sustainable consumption

42. Sustainable consumption includes meeting the needs of present and future generations for goods and services in ways that are economically, socially and environmentally sustainable.

43. Responsibility for sustainable consumption is shared by all members and organizations of society, with informed consumers, Government, business, labour organizations, and consumer and environmental organizations playing particularly important roles. Informed consumers have an essential role in promoting consumption that is environmentally, economically and socially sustainable, including through the effects of their choices on

producers. Governments should promote the development and implementation of policies for sustainable consumption and the integration of those policies with other public policies. Government policy making should be conducted in consultation with business, consumer and environmental organizations, and other concerned groups. Business has a responsibility for promoting sustainable consumption through the design, production and distribution of goods and services. Consumer and environmental organizations have a responsibility for promoting public participation and debate on sustainable consumption, for informing consumers, and for working with Government and business towards sustainable consumption.

44. Governments, in partnership with business and relevant organizations of civil society, should develop and implement strategies that promote sustainable consumption through a mix of policies that could include regulations; economic and social instruments; sectoral policies in such areas as land use, transport, energy and housing; information programmes to raise awareness of the impact of consumption patterns; removal of subsidies that promote unsustainable patterns of consumption and production; and promotion of sector-specific environmental-management best practices.

45. Governments should encourage the design, development and use of products and services that are safe and energy and resource efficient, considering their full life-cycle impacts. Governments should encourage recycling programmes that encourage consumers to both recycle wastes and purchase recycled products.

46. Governments should promote the development and use of national and international environmental health and safety standards for products and services; such standards should not result in disguised barriers to trade.

47. Governments should encourage impartial environmental testing of products.

48. Governments should safely manage environmentally harmful uses of substances and encourage the development of environmentally sound alternatives for such uses. New potentially hazardous substances should be evaluated on a scientific basis for their long-term environmental impact prior to distribution.

49. Governments should promote awareness of the health-related benefits of sustainable consumption and production patterns, bearing in mind both direct effects on individual health and collective effects through environmental protection.

50. Governments, in partnership with the private sector and other relevant organizations, should encourage the transformation of unsustainable consumption patterns through the development and use of new environmentally sound products and services and new technologies, including information and communication technologies, that can meet consumer needs while reducing pollution and depletion of natural resources.

51. Governments are encouraged to create or strengthen effective regulatory mechanisms for the protection of consumers, including aspects of sustainable consumption.

52. Governments should consider a range of economic instruments, such as fiscal instruments and internalization of environmental costs, to promote sustainable consumption, taking into account social needs, the need for disincentives for unsustainable practices and incentives for more sustainable practices, while avoiding potential negative effects for market access, in particular for developing countries.

53. Governments, in cooperation with business and other relevant groups, should develop indicators, methodologies and databases for measuring progress towards sustainable consumption at all levels. This information should be publicly available.

54. Governments and international agencies should take the lead in introducing sustainable practices in their own operations, in particular through their procurement policies. Government procurement, as appropriate, should encourage development and use of environmentally sound products and services.

55. Governments and other relevant organizations should promote research on consumer behaviour related to environmental damage in order to identify ways to make consumption patterns more sustainable.

H. Measures relating to specific areas

56. In advancing consumer interests, particularly in developing countries, Governments should, where appropriate, give priority to areas of essential concern for the health of the consumer, such as food, water and pharmaceuticals. Policies should be adopted or maintained for product quality control, adequate and secure distribution facilities, standardized international labelling and information, as well as education and research programmes in these areas. Government guidelines in regard to specific areas should be developed in the context of the provisions of this document.

57. **Food**. When formulating national policies and plans with regard to food, Governments should take into account the need of all consumers for food security and should support and, as far as possible, adopt standards from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Health Organization Codex Alimentarius or, in their absence, other generally accepted international food standards. Governments should maintain, develop or improve food safety measures, including, *inter alia*, safety criteria, food standards and dietary requirements and effective monitoring, inspection and evaluation mechanisms.

58. Governments should promote sustainable agricultural policies and practices, conservation of biodiversity, and protection of soil and water, taking into account traditional knowledge.

59. **Water**. Governments should, within the goals and targets set for the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade, formulate, maintain or strengthen national policies to improve the supply, distribution and quality of water for drinking. Due regard should be paid to the choice of appropriate levels of service, quality and technology, the need for education programmes and the importance of community participation.

60. Governments should assign high priority to the formulation and implementation of policies and programmes concerning the multiple uses of water, taking into account the importance of water for sustainable development in general and its finite character as a resource.

61. **Pharmaceuticals**. Governments should develop or maintain adequate standards, provisions and appropriate regulatory systems for ensuring the quality and appropriate use of pharmaceuticals through integrated national drug policies which could address, *inter alia*, procurement, distribution, production, licensing arrangements, registration systems and the availability of reliable information on pharmaceuticals. In so doing, Governments should take special account of the work and recommendations of the World Health Organization on pharmaceuticals. For relevant products, the use of that organization's Certification Scheme on the Quality of Pharmaceutical Products Moving in International Commerce and other international information systems on pharmaceuticals should be encouraged. Measures should also be taken, as appropriate, to promote the use of international non-proprietary names (INNs) for drugs, drawing on the work done by the World Health Organization.

62. In addition to the priority areas indicated above, Governments should adopt appropriate measures in other areas, such as pesticides and chemicals in regard, where relevant, to their use, production and storage, taking into account such relevant health and environmental information as Governments may require producers to provide and include in the labelling of products.

IV. International cooperation

63. Governments should, especially in a regional or subregional context:

(a) Develop, review, maintain or strengthen, as appropriate, mechanisms for the exchange of information on national policies and measures in the field of consumer protection;

(b) Cooperate or encourage cooperation in the implementation of consumer protection policies to achieve greater results within existing resources. Examples of such cooperation could be collaboration in the setting up or joint use of testing facilities, common testing procedures, exchange of consumer information and education programmes, joint training programmes and joint elaboration of regulations;

(c) Cooperate to improve the conditions under which essential goods are offered to consumers, giving due regard to both price and quality. Such cooperation could include joint procurement of essential goods, exchange of information on different procurement possibilities and agreements on regional product specifications.

64. Governments should develop or strengthen information links regarding products which have been banned, withdrawn or severely restricted in order to enable other importing countries to protect themselves adequately against the harmful effects of such products.

65. Governments should work to ensure that the quality of products, and information relating to such products, does not vary from country to country in a way that would have detrimental effects on consumers.

66. To promote sustainable consumption, Governments, international bodies and business should work together to develop, transfer and disseminate environmentally sound technologies, including through appropriate financial support from developed countries, and to devise new and innovative mechanisms for financing their transfer among all countries, in particular to and among developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

67. Governments and international organizations, as appropriate, should promote and facilitate capacity building in the area of sustainable consumption, particularly in developing countries and countries with economies in transition. In particular, Governments should also facilitate cooperation among consumer groups and other relevant organizations of civil society, with the aim of strengthening capacity in this area.

68. Governments and international bodies, as appropriate, should promote programmes relating to consumer education and information.

69. Governments should work to ensure that policies and measures for consumer protection are implemented with due regard to their not becoming barriers to international trade, and that they are consistent with international trade obligations.

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Item 2 of the provisional agenda*
Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Participation of intergovernmental organizations in the work of the seventh session of the Commission on Sustainable Development

Note by the Secretariat

1. Requests have been received from the South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP), the Latin American Fisheries Development Organization (OLDEPESCA) and the Permanent South Pacific Commission (CPPS), respectively, to attend the seventh session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, as intergovernmental organizations.

2. According to rule 74 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council (E/5975/Rev.1), representatives of intergovernmental organizations accorded permanent observer status by the General Assembly and of other intergovernmental organizations designated on a continuing basis by the Council or invited by the Commission may participate, without a right to vote, in the deliberations of the Commission on questions within the scope of the activities of the organizations.

3. The Secretariat has reviewed the credentials of the above three organizations and recommends that they be invited to attend the seventh session of the Commission as intergovernmental organizations, with the status of observer.

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* E/CN.17/1999/1.

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Other matters

Draft proposals submitted by the Vice-Chairman, Mr. George Talbot (Guyana)

Draft decision I

Proposed programme of work in the area of sustainable development for the biennium 2000–2001

The Commission on Sustainable Development takes note of the proposed programme of work in the area of sustainable development for the biennium 2000–2001,[1] and requests the Economic and Social Council to invite the Committee for Programme and Coordination, the Advisory Committee for Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Fifth Committee, in their deliberations on the programme budget for the biennium 2000–2001, to take into account, as appropriate, relevant outcomes of the special session of the General Assembly that will carry out the comprehensive review of progress achieved in the implementation of the Programme for Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.

[1] E/CN.17/1999/CRP.1.

99-11443 (E) 210499

Draft decision II

Matters related to the inter-sessional work of the Commission

The Commission on Sustainable Development:

(a) Decides, pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1997/63 of 25 July 1997 on the programme of work of the Commission for the period 1998–2002 and future methods of work of the Commission, that in order to assist the Commission in its deliberations at its eighth session, the 2000 sessions of its inter-sessional ad hoc working groups will be devoted to the following issues:

(i) Integrated planning and management of land resources; and agriculture;

(ii) Financial resources/trade and investment/economic growth.

(b) Also decides, in accordance with paragraph 133 of the programme for the further implementation of Agenda 21, that the Bureau of the Commission shall continue conducting transparent and open-ended consultations in a timely manner on matters related to preparations for the eighth session of the Commission and the sessions of its inter-sessional ad hoc working groups.

(c) Reiterates that, in order to enable the Bureau to carry out its functions effectively, consideration should be given to providing appropriate financial support, through extrabudgetary contributions, to members of the Bureau, particularly those from the developing countries, to enable them to participate in the meetings of the Bureau, in the inter-sessional meetings of the Commission and in the sessions of the Commission itself.

Draft resolution on voluntary initiatives and agreements

The Commission on Sustainable Development:

Recalling the interactive dialogue that took place between Governments, industry, trade unions, non-governmental organizations and international organizations in the industry segment organized during its sixth session in 1998[1] and its decision 6/2 regarding the "potential value of a review of voluntary initiatives and agreements",

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General[2] and the inter-sessional consultative process convened in Toronto, Canada, in March 1999, involving representatives of industry, trade unions, non-governmental organizations, international organizations and Governments, aimed at identifying elements of a review of voluntary initiatives and agreements launched in follow-up to its decision 6/2 in 1998;

2. *Reiterates* the value of multi-stakeholder processes for sustainable development, and encourages their further use both in future work on voluntary initiatives and agreements and in other sustainable development issues;

3. *Encourages* the stakeholder groups, in cooperation with relevant United Nations bodies, to continue generating information about voluntary initiatives and agreements, including the most appropriate means for possible reviews, and to make this information widely available, and requests its secretariat to facilitate these efforts, *inter alia*, through its Internet site;

4. *Stresses* the need for better understanding of the possible impact of voluntary initiatives and agreements on developing countries, and requests the various stakeholders to report periodically, through the Commission's secretariat, on steps they have taken or progress they have made in assisting developing countries to understand and make use of, as appropriate, the lessons to be learned from the use of voluntary initiatives and agreements;

5. *Takes note* of the commitments to future action made by the various stakeholders at the Toronto meeting, and encourages further dialogue among the stakeholders on information products that may assist countries and interested organizations in understanding the uses and value of voluntary initiatives and agreements in the context of sustainable development;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to periodically report to the Commission on the progress and developments in this area.

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[1] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1998, Supplement No. 9* (E/1998/29), chap. II.
[2] E/CN.17/1999/12.

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Agenda item 11

Adoption of the report of the Commission on its seventh session

Draft report

Rapporteur: Mr. Largaton **Ouattara** (Côte d'Ivoire)

Chapter __

Organization of the session

A. Opening and duration of the session

1. The Commission on Sustainable Development held its seventh session at United Nations Headquarters on 1 May 1998, 27 July 1998 and from 19 to 30 April 1999. The Commission held __ meetings (1st to __ meetings).

2. At the 3rd meeting, on 19 April 1999, the Chairman, Mr. Simon Upton (New Zealand), made an introductory statement.

3. Also at the 3rd meeting, the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat made an introductory statement.

B. Attendance

4. The session was attended by representatives of __ States members of the Commission on Sustainable Development. Observers for other States Members of the United Nations and for the European Community, and representatives of organizations of the United Nations system, and secretariats of treaty bodies, as well as observers for intergovernmental, non-governmental and other organizations also attended. A list of participants is contained in annex __ to the present report.

5. At its 3rd meeting, on 19 April 1999, the Commission agreed to invite the South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP), the Latin American Fisheries Development Organization (OLDEPESCA) and the Permanent South Pacific Commission (CPPS) to attend the session of the Commission as intergovernmental organizations, with the status of observers.

C. Election of officers

6. At its 1st and 2nd meetings, on 1 May and 27 July 1998, respectively, the Commission elected the following officers by acclamation:

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Chairman:	Mr. Simon Upton (New Zealand)
Vice-Chairmen:	Dr. Tibor Faragó (Hungary) Mr. George Talbot (Guyana) Mr. Largaton Ouattara (Côte d'Ivoire) Mr. Navid Hanif (Pakistan)

7. At the 2nd meeting, on 27 July 1998, Mr. Largaton Ouattara (Côte d'Ivoire) was elected to serve also as Rapporteur.

8. At its 3rd meeting, on 19 April 1999, the Commission elected Mr. Sandor Mozes (Hungary) to replace Dr. Tibor Faragó (Hungary) as Vice-Chairman.

D. Agenda and organization of work

9. At its 3rd meeting, on 19 April 1999, the Commission adopted its provisional agenda and organization of work, as contained in document E/CN.17/1999/1. The agenda was as follows:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Sectoral theme: oceans and seas.
4. Cross-sectoral theme: consumption and production patterns, including recommendations for sustainable consumption for inclusion in the United Nations guidelines for consumer protection, as requested by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1997/53.
5. Economic sector/major group: tourism.
6. Comprehensive review of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.
7. Initiation of preparations for the ninth session of the Commission on issues related to the sectoral theme: energy.
8. High-level meeting.
9. Other matters.
10. Provisional agenda of the eighth session of the Commission.
11. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its seventh session.

E. Documentation

10. The documents before the Commission at its seventh session are listed in annex __ to the present report.

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Adoption of the report of the Commission on its seventh session

Chapter ___.

Draft Chairman's summary of the high-level segment of the seventh session of the Commission on Sustainable Development

(New York, 21–23 April 1999)

A. General

1. The high-level segment of the seventh session of the Commission on Sustainable Development focused on the following subjects:

- Tourism;
- Oceans and seas;
- A plan of action for the small island developing States;
- Changing consumption and production patterns;
- Challenges for the future and other matters.

2. This high-level segment attracted more ministers than any previous Commission meeting and all participated actively in the dialogue. There were also a large number of other representatives from national Governments, United Nations organizations and other international organizations and representatives of major groups who made a substantive contribution. The preparations made by Governments, international organizations and agencies, and especially the major groups, including industry, local authorities, trade unions and non-governmental organizations, helped to bring key issues into clear focus.

3. The seventh session of the Commission marked a departure from procedure in previous years, reflecting the call from the sixth session for a more dynamic and participatory process. This involved setting time limits for national statements in order to preserve roughly half the time available on each theme for interactive dialogue. This approach worked well, with many participants indicating that there was greater value in interactive dialogue than a more sterile process involving lengthy prepared statements. It may be worth trying to move further in the new direction next year by increasing the proportion of time spent on each theme available for dialogue and by requiring prepared interventions to focus on specific issues associated with the themes under discussion.

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B. Tourism

4. Participants focused on the need for the Commission to produce a work programme by the conclusion of its seventh session. Their attention was drawn in particular to the draft decision produced by the Inter-sessional Ad Hoc Working Group on Consumption and Production Patterns and on Tourism and a summary of specific suggestions from the tourism dialogue circulated by the Chair. Ministers from developed and developing countries provided useful information on activities, policies and strategies in their countries pertaining to sustainable tourism development.

5. Tourism was recognized as a key rapid growth sector in the world economy with important economic, social, cultural and environmental impacts, particularly in small island developing States and tourist destinations with fragile ecosystems. Tourism had the potential to make an important contribution to poverty alleviation and economic advancement, particularly through integrated plans with the inclusion of local stakeholders in planning and development and where a key objective remained the protection of the cultural and natural assets of the tourist locality. It was acknowledged that different forms of tourism and local conditions needed to be taken into account and that war or civil strife was damaging to tourist industries and the environment.

6. There was also recognition that tourism could have adverse impacts, including drug abuse, child labour, prostitution, overcrowding, pressure on resources, leakage of revenues and challenges to established culture. Coastal area development was a particular concern because of the potential for damage to natural assets, communities' livelihoods and culture. Education; capacity-building efforts; support for small and medium-sized enterprises and micro-enterprises; waste minimization; study of "carrying capacity"; commitment to preserve natural and cultural legacies; and the importance of focusing on groups like women and indigenous communities in relation to tourism were identified as ways to address problems. The international community had a special role through focused financial and technical assistance and the transfer of environmentally sound technology, particularly in partnership with developing countries, economies in transition and small island developing States.

7. Participants welcomed the multi-stakeholder dialogue on tourism. It was essential that local stakeholders be involved at all levels in tourism planning. The commitment of industry to be part of the solution to identified problems was welcomed. Local authorities also had a special role, particularly in relation to the identification of best practices and planning. Initiatives such as Agenda 21 for travel and tourism and Local Agenda 21 were identified as being positive tools for promoting sustainable development, with many participants expressing the view that stronger emphasis should be given to action at the local level. Participants also encouraged major groups and other stakeholders in their plan to develop more active partnerships for progress in tourism.

8. Participants placed the highest priority on the production of a work programme at the current session that identified clear responsibilities for action and reporting deadlines for work, wherever possible. They stressed that business and industry efforts to promote sustainable development, including in partnership with other stakeholders, should be supported. They also agreed that there were a number of points in the summary of suggestions from the tourism dialogue that should be included in the Commission's work programme. A number of ministers made specific recommendations on items that they believed should be endorsed or ones that might benefit from some further fine-tuning. There was a general sense that some activities merited Commission endorsement, including minimizing packaging waste associated with the travel and tourism industry; an International Maritime Organization (IMO) study on the effectiveness of marine pollution regulations, including in relation to tourism activities; and an invitation to specific international organizations and agencies to make information available on practical sustainable development techniques and ways to address/monitor the impact of tourism development.

9. Ministers and participants expressed abhorrence at the exploitation of women and children, especially through sex tourism. They called for stronger action to combat this phenomenon, especially on the part of those countries from which the tourists came, and noted the special role for the tourism industry in efforts to stamp it out. Governments were urged to ratify the International Labour Organization (ILO) agreement to eliminate child sexual exploitation and to rigorously enforce laws that prohibited this.

10. Some participants expressed strong concern about labour practices in relation to the tourism sector and emphasized the importance of ILO work in this connection. Other participants cautioned that there were some differences of view in this area.

C. Oceans and seas

11. Participants focused on the need for the Commission to conclude a decision on oceans and seas and paid special attention to the observations, recommendations and proposals produced at the Inter-sessional Ad Hoc Working Group on Oceans and Seas and on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, in which connection they confirmed the four main challenges identified at the Ad Hoc Inter-sessional Working Group:

- Conserving, managing and achieving sustainable use of fisheries and other marine living resources;
- Preventing pollution and degradation of the marine environment from land-based activities;
- Better scientific understanding of the oceans and seas and their interaction with the world climate system;
- Better international coordination and cooperation.

12. Participants noted the progress that had been made in reaching agreements relating to the oceans and seas and warned about continuing threats which these had not cured. They therefore urged early ratification of relevant agreements with a view to early entry into force. It was essential that agreements be implemented by States and that efforts be made to build capacity and mobilize the resources necessary for implementation (including possibly by partner conferences). Coordination between the different parts of national administrations — as set out in section A of Chapter 17 of Agenda 21[1] — was also necessary to ensure both that national action was integrated and that international bodies did not receive conflicting directions from their member States.

13. On fisheries and other marine living resources, participants stressed the crucial importance in much of the world of ensuring continuing sustainable supply of food from the oceans and seas (a matter of particular moment for many communities in developing countries) as well as the need to protect marine biological diversity. It was important for the Commission to make clear that these two concerns underpinned the need for effective and integrated fisheries management and the protection of the habitats of fish and other biota. Without them, poverty would be exacerbated and the environment would be degraded. A precautionary and ecosystem-based approach to fisheries was stressed, as was the need to make sustainable utilization of ocean resources a realizable goal.

14. Participants stressed the urgent need for action to eliminate overfishing and wasteful fishing practices. Governments were urged to undertake national assessments of their fish stocks and support the work of regional fisheries organizations in improving required scientific data. The need to take early steps to eliminate overcapacity in many fisheries was emphasized. The recent agreement of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) on an International Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity in this field was commended, but emphasis was laid on the primary role of regional fisheries organizations in implementing it. Participants also stressed the need for early action to end illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing, which posed particular threats to artisanal and subsistence fisheries. Capacity-building and resource mobilization were preconditions for action on IUU in many cases. Participants called on all States to acknowledge their responsibilities to ensure that ships flying their flags complied with international law and asked FAO and IMO to cooperate in work to address IUU problems associated with vessels flying flags of convenience.

15. Participants called for further work by global and regional fisheries organizations to reduce by-catch, both of non-target fish species and of other forms of wildlife, to reduce discards and to safeguard breeding stock. Training and capacity-building were important in this respect. Participants called for the evaluation of the possible negative impact of subsidies and other fiscal and economic incentives that might promote overcapitalization, although some expressed the view that certain subsidies could also assist socio-economic policy goals and contribute to the reduction of excessive fishing.

16. Attention was drawn to the importance of coral reefs, both as indicators of the health of the oceans and seas and as a basis for tourist activities, especially in developing countries. The Commission was urged to support the International Coral Reef Initiative. It was also urged to note the value of the establishment of marine protected areas, in suitable circumstances and along with other appropriate tools, as a means to promote protection of the marine environment and the conservation of marine biological diversity in line with the Jakarta mandate of the Convention on Biological Diversity.[2]

17. Participants expressed concern about the slow rate of progress in many aspects of the implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities,[3] while welcoming some recent steps and calling for early action by the relevant international bodies and by Governments. Regional and national partnership meetings aimed at accelerating implementation of the Global Programme of Action received strong support. Adequate treatment of wastes, sewage and industrial effluents was identified as a

serious obstacle to implementation of the Global Programme of Action, particularly for developing countries and economies in transition whose representatives cited a need for financial and technological assistance in their efforts to deal with such wastes. Unsustainable development patterns, including overcrowding, in coastal areas were identified as particular problems.

18. Participants welcomed the decision of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to convene a global conference to address sewage as a major land-based source of pollution affecting human and ecosystem health. Efforts to combat the spread of persistent organic pollutants (POPs) were also welcomed. There was discussion about the possible need for a global framework treaty to implement the Global Programme of Action, but a number of participants questioned the feasibility of formulating and implementing such an agreement. Participants also stressed the importance they attached to UNEP's completing the establishment of the Global Programme of Action coordination office and establishing a clearing-house mechanism to provide decision makers with direct access to scientific and technical expertise, financial assistance and capacity-building.

19. There was considerable emphasis on the need for improved scientific understanding of the marine environment as a fundamental basis for sound decision-making, improved human well-being and prevention of environmental degradation including in coastal areas. Participants observed that interaction between atmospheric and oceanic systems was changing as a result of climate change and could lead to serious socio-economic and environmental impacts, such as El Niño. Concerted international action (including coordinated efforts by the United Nations system) to improve scientific understanding was urgently required to deal with the effects of the El Niño phenomenon.

20. With regard to the ongoing efforts to enhance the effectiveness of the Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection (GESAMP) as a source of independent scientific advice on oceans and coastal issues, participants suggested that consideration be given to establishing an international panel on marine pollution, along the lines of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

21. Nearly all participants addressed the issue of international cooperation and coordination, exhibiting a keen interest in improving the way in which ocean issues are managed in intergovernmental forums and by international organizations. They attached priority to the identification of coherent, comprehensive and consistent approaches to sustainable development questions in relation to oceans and seas. They believed that the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea[4] provides the overall legal framework for the consideration of oceans and seas. Clearly it was appropriate for intergovernmental deliberations to take place in the General Assembly. However, there was a need to enhance the effectiveness of the Assembly's annual debate on oceans and the law of the sea, including by broadening and deepening the Assembly's consideration of oceans and the law of the sea. The Assembly's consideration of oceans needs to be able to range across all oceans issues, including those in Agenda 21, and to take account of the linkages between them. The process should benefit from a thorough and well-prepared analysis. Methods to improve the review of oceans issues should utilize, to the extent possible, existing institutions and make use of existing resources. The view was widely shared that there was a need for "institutional renewal, not new institutions".

22. Participants emphasized the need to identify present gaps and areas where coordination and cooperation should be enhanced. There was particular need for improvements in the process of inter-agency collaboration utilizing existing mechanisms and resources.

23. Participants noted that the Commission's recommendations on how to improve international coordination and cooperation would be presented to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session for its further consideration and action. They attached importance to this work and the need to provide clear and detailed guidance to the Assembly.

D. Small island developing States

24. The co-Chair of the Inter-sessional Ad Hoc Working Group on Oceans and Seas and on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States briefed the Commission on progress in reaching agreement on the draft text that the Commission, acting as a preparatory body for the special session of the General Assembly for the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[5] is required to submit to the special session.

25. Recognizing that small island developing States are the custodians of large areas of the world's oceans and significant biodiversity resources, participants reaffirmed the Barbados Programme of Action as the blueprint for the sustainable development of small island developing States. Attention was drawn to the progress made by small island developing States since the adoption of the Barbados

Programme of Action by the Barbados Global Conference in implementing sustainable development strategies through action at the national and the regional level.

26. Attention was drawn to the vulnerability of small island developing States in relation to their ability to withstand external economic shocks, for example, as a result of fluctuating commodity prices and susceptibility to natural disasters. Participants placed particular emphasis on the early development of a vulnerability index to supplement existing gross domestic product (GDP)-based criteria in the assessment of eligibility of small island developing States for concessional finance.

27. Concern was expressed at constraints still faced by small island developing States in fully implementing sustainable development strategies because of insufficient resources, due particularly to declining levels of official development assistance (ODA). Concern was further expressed that the decline in financial resources might reflect a lessening of commitment made at the Barbados Global Conference. It was recognized that the special session of the General Assembly would provide an opportunity for all countries to reaffirm commitments that had been made at the time the Barbados Programme of Action was adopted.

28. In this regard, the recent small island developing States donor meeting was acknowledged as a positive step. Participants emphasized the need for improved donor coordination and the importance of partnerships at all levels, including with the private sector, in order to further assist small island developing States in their efforts to achieve sustainable development.

29. There were expressions of concern at adverse effects on small island developing States of globalization and trade liberalization. It was emphasized that the special circumstances of small island developing States should be taken into account in the next phase of negotiations under the World Trade Organization.

30. Participants expressed concern at the risks to small island developing States of trans-shipment of hazardous wastes and materials through their jurisdictions. In this regard, there was a proposal to have the Caribbean Sea recognized as a special area in the context of sustainable development, bearing in mind the subregion's high degree of vulnerability as a result of the large number of ships with hazardous cargo traversing the Caribbean.

E. Changing consumption and production patterns

31. Participants emphasized that all countries were consumers and producers of a global and common set of resources. It was recognized that the industrialized countries should take the lead in changing consumption and production patterns, based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, since consumption and production in developing countries were often driven by the patterns in developed countries.

32. It was noted that during the twentieth century, world consumption had undergone tremendous expansion, with substantial positive effects on human welfare for a large number of people. However, there were huge disparities in consumption between industrialized and developing countries and widening gaps between the wealthy and the poor almost everywhere. Furthermore, unsustainable consumption and production patterns, especially in developed countries, had done great environmental as well as social harm worldwide, with severe impacts often being experienced in the poorest regions of the world.

33. Participants noted that unsustainable consumption and production patterns included both overconsumption of natural resources, particularly in the developed countries, and poverty and underconsumption of basic goods and services in developing countries. There was an urgent need to find effective ways to address poverty, particularly in the poorest countries, and to thereby enable them to attain better life conditions and to achieve sustainable development.

34. It was noted that the developing countries and countries with economies in transition needed investment in skills formation and capacity-building, technology development and transfer, and promotion of greater efficiency in production, in order to enable them to address the priority goal of poverty eradication. Transfer of skills and technology, together with financial resources, was required to ensure access to international markets. Particular attention should be given to the needs of small and medium-sized enterprises. Participants stressed the need for developed countries, in particular, to meet their commitments to those ends, as outlined in Agenda 21, in accordance with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.

35. It was noted that sustainable development required equitable access to resources and a decoupling of consumption and production from environmental degradation.

36. Participants emphasized that Governments, industry, media, non-governmental organizations, international organizations and individuals all had important roles to play in changing consumption and production patterns.

37. It was noted that it was in the interest of all countries to promote cleaner production and eco-efficiency in various economic sectors. For this purpose, a mix of instruments should be used, ranging from regulatory through economic to social instruments, including voluntary initiatives. A key challenge was to find ways to meet present and future demands, especially for non-renewable resources, food and energy.

38. It was noted that a better understanding about the driving forces that influenced consumer choice and behaviour was needed, including gender-related issues, and the role of the advertising sector and the media. It was noted that the further development of indicators of consumption and production could make an important contribution to this effort.

39. It was noted there was need for further study of the impacts of urbanization and urban planning on sustainable consumption and production, particularly in such areas as transportation, energy, water, sanitation and waste management.

40. Participants stressed the critical importance of education, information and public awareness, recognizing that broad participation in changing consumption and production patterns depended on public understanding of the impact of consumption and production patterns on health, quality of life, poverty and the environment. They encouraged UNEP and other international organizations, together with Governments, industry, media and other stakeholders, to contribute to education, information and public awareness.

41. Participants noted that globalization was of particular concern and that relationships between trade, environment and development should be examined with a view to promoting more sustainable patterns of consumption and production. It was emphasized that policies on trade and sustainable consumption should be mutually supportive. It was emphasized that policies to promote sustainable consumption and production should not be used for protectionism or in a discriminatory way, nor should they create obstacles to development in developing countries.

42. It was noted that financing for development must come primarily from domestic resources, but that ODA is also very important, especially for the least developed countries. In this context, donor countries were encouraged to make further efforts to proceed towards the fulfilment of the ODA target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product (GNP).

43. Participants welcomed the initiative by UNEP to elaborate an International Declaration on Cleaner Production and encouraged the signing of that Declaration.

44. Participants welcomed the elaboration of, and called for the adoption of, the new elements on sustainable consumption for inclusion in the United Nations Guidelines for Consumer Protection.[6]

F. Focus points

45. The following sections of the report identify points that ministers and heads of delegation stressed for consideration by officials in finalizing Commission outcomes.

1. Tourism

Under this topic:

- A focused work programme identifying clearly what actions are required, by whom and, wherever possible, by when. This would include work that major groups have agreed to undertake, as well as actions for Governments and international organizations and agencies;
- The need to reflect the key role of industry and local authorities in achieving sustainable development in the tourism sector (including through such measures as Agenda 21 for travel and tourism, Local Agenda 21 and other initiatives, desirably with multi-stakeholder participation, and also monitoring, verification and assessment arrangements);
- The need for specific measures for capacity-building (for example, education and training arrangements for tourists, children, workers, educators, women, indigenous people and other relevant groups), including industry-led initiatives;
- The importance of identifying tourism planning and management activities (including the development of integrated planning arrangements, with mechanisms for including stakeholders; development and promotion of "best practices"; development of inter-agency study on carrying capacity; early efforts to minimize packaging waste associated with travel and tourism; and arrangements to ensure that international organizations and agencies take tourism into account in work programmes on relevant issues);

- Addressing of coastal issues effectively (including through fully integrated planning processes for coastal development; proactive support for small and medium-sized enterprises and micro-enterprises; IMO study on effectiveness of marine pollution regulations and compliance in the context of tourism impacts, especially in small island developing States;
- Inclusion of relevant direction for research activities;
- Inclusion of direction for stronger action on the exploitation of women and children, especially through sex tourism, recognizing the particular responsibilities of the home countries of sex tourists and the special role for the tourism industry in efforts to stamp out the problem. Governments to be urged to support ILO work in this area, including through ratifying and enforcing relevant agreements.

2. Oceans and seas

Under this topic:

- The importance for much of the world of ensuring a sustainable supply of food from oceans and seas as well as the need to protect marine biological diversity;
- Early ratification and entry into force of existing agreements;
- Implementing those agreements and other instruments such as agreed plans of action, including developing the necessary capacity at the national, regional and global level;
- The potential of Partnership conferences at the regional level involving all relevant stakeholders for mobilizing the activities and resources needed for the implementation of agreements and action plans, in particular the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities;
- The significance of regional fishing organizations as the cornerstone for achieving the sustainable use of fisheries, the need for them to be strengthened and given greater enforcement capacity and the need to encourage the creation of new regional fishing organizations in respect of non-regulated fisheries;
- The need for effective action on the problems of illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing, including by vessels flying flags of convenience and for the closest possible cooperation between FAO and IMO in resolving these problems;
- The problems of by-catch (both of non-target species and of other forms of wildlife), discards and destructive fishing practices; and the need for effective further work by global and regional fisheries organizations to address these issues;
- The problems associated with persistent organic pollutants and the need for an international agreement in this area; the importance of efforts to reduce the discharge of hazardous substances and avoiding contamination of the marine environment as a result of the scrapping of ships;
- The contribution that a global representative system of marine protected areas could make to the sustainable management of oceans and seas; and the need for sound principles in the development of the marine protected areas concept;
- The importance of improving scientific understanding of the marine environment in general and of ensuring that the best scientific information is available to regional and subregional decision makers; noting of the urgency of the review of GESAMP being undertaken by IMO; and emphasis on the significant impact on oceans of climatic phenomena such as the El Niño effect and encouragement of further work towards the understanding of these phenomena;
- The need for means by which each session of the Commission on Sustainable Development can review the implementation of its previous recommendations, including country and inter-agency feedback on progress;
- The importance of ensuring cross-sectoral integration at the national level to ensure that international agencies in the oceans area do not receive conflicting or inconsistent directions from their member States;
- The importance of international coordination and cooperation and the need to identify present gaps and areas where coordination and cooperation should be enhanced; in that context, the need to broaden and deepen the General Assembly's consideration of oceans and the law of the sea to more effectively encompass the full range of oceans issues, including those in Agenda 21; and, in addition, the need for improvements in the process of inter-agency collaboration utilizing existing mechanisms.

3. Small island developing States

Under this topic:

- The importance of the decision text emphasizing the continuing validity of the Barbados Programme of Action as a blueprint for the sustainable development of small island developing States;
- The particular vulnerability of small island developing States in relation to both economic shocks and natural disasters;
- Concern over declining ODA levels;
- The importance of the special circumstances of small island developing States being taken into account in the next phase of negotiations under the World Trade Organization;
- The importance of improving donor coordination and strengthening partnerships with all stakeholders in efforts to implement the Barbados Programme of Action;
- The opportunity provided by the special session of the General Assembly for all countries to reaffirm the commitments made at the Barbados Global Conference.

4. Changing consumption and production patterns

Under this topic:

- Focus future work through the development of strategies to achieve:

  (a) Integrated resource management, cleaner production and eco-efficiency;

  (b) Better understanding of globalization and its impact on consumption and production patterns;

  (c) Progress in addressing problems relating to urbanization, and impacts of human settlements;

- Promotion of investment in capacity-building, technology development and transfer, and promotion of greater efficiency in production, recognizing the roles of Governments, international organizations, industry and other stakeholders in this regard;
- Increase and improvement of international cooperation in the transfer of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries, with the requisite financial support.

Notes

[1] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

[2] See United Nations Environment Programme, *Convention on Biological Diversity* (Environmental Law and Institution Programme Activity Centre), June 1992.

[3] A/51/116, annex II.

[4] *Official Records of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea*, vol. XVII (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.84.V.3), document A/CONF.62/122.

[5] *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April–6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[6] General Assembly resolution 39/248 of 9 April 1985, annex.

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Chairman's summary of the multi-stakeholder dialogue on tourism of the seventh session of the Commission on Sustainable Development

Addendum

A. Introduction

1. At its seventh session, the Commission on Sustainable Development continued the tradition, started at its sixth session, of including a multi-stakeholder dialogue as part of its official proceedings. The purpose of the multi-stakeholder dialogue segment is to enable participatory elaboration of common approaches for, and exchange of experiences between, Governments and major groups in specific economic sectors. The tourism segment involved representatives of business and industry, workers and trade unions, local authorities and non-governmental organizations, and was held from 19 to 21 April 1999. It was noted that this dialogue would illuminate subsequent discussions of the Commission on Sustainable Development both in the high-level segment and in the remainder of the Commission's work seeking for specific outcomes for the seventh session of the Commission on sustainable tourism including an agreed work programme in this area.

2. The tourism segment followed the format previously agreed by the Bureau of the Commission.[1] Lead organizations invited by the Commission on Sustainable Development secretariat to assist in the preparations for the tourism segment were responsible for consulting with their constituencies to draft the "dialogue starter" papers and to organize the participation of the delegations from their sectors. These lead organizations included the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC), the International Hotel and Restaurant Association, the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions/Trade Union Advisory Committee to the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI), and the Commission on Sustainable Development non-governmental organizations Steering Committee.

3. The segment focused on four themes highlighting important aspects of sustainable tourism. These themes included (a) industry initiatives for sustainable tourism, (b) influencing consumer behaviour, (c) promoting broad-based sustainable development while safeguarding the integrity of local cultures and protecting the environment and (d) coastal impact of tourism.

4. There was a lively, positive and focused exchange on issues of key concern, with participants seeking to identify

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their priorities for consideration and making a genuine effort to improve mutual understanding and cooperation. The present summary is not a verbatim record but seeks to reflect the issues on which participants showed general agreement, areas that would benefit from further dialogue and elaboration, and specific initiatives announced or proposed by the participants.

B. Industry initiatives for sustainable tourism

5. Participants recognized the global economic significance of tourism. It is a growth industry accounting for more than 10 per cent of the global gross domestic product (GDP) and offers significant employment opportunities. Industry forecasts suggest that there will continue to be rapid development in this sector. It was noted, however, that many people are not able to participate in tourism owing to poverty and inadequate wages. It was also recognized that tourism has significant social, cultural and environmental impacts.

6. Discussions and presentations demonstrated the various voluntary initiatives launched by industry to promote sustainable tourism, including certification programmes and codes of conduct, at the national and international levels. Participants supported these existing initiatives to encourage sustainable tourism and the commitment of industry to do more. *Agenda 21 for the Travel and Tourism Industry* was highlighted as a policy framework developed by industry. The willingness of industry to further develop this framework through multi-stakeholder processes was welcomed.

7. The existing voluntary initiatives were identified as being complementary to national and local regulatory compliance efforts, as these initiatives are designed to be cost-effective means of surpassing existing regulatory requirements. It was agreed that the range of measures from regulation to voluntary initiatives and agreements were appropriate for further efforts to achieve sustainable development in the travel and tourism sector. Voluntary measures developed with multi-stakeholder participation, mutual trust and respect, transparency, monitoring, and assessment and verification were seen as most likely to generate confidence and support from all parties.

8. Participants referred to numerous public and private systems of certification, including the Green Globe programme. This was promoted by industry as an example of a global certification standard in tourism, and industry agreed to put in place a multi-stakeholder advisory group for this programme. There was general support for greater discussion and promotion of "best practices" and for further research to identify such practices that promoted sustainable development in the tourism sector. It was suggested that consideration be given to a review of existing voluntary initiatives in this sector, building on the work initiated by the Commission at its sixth session and the subsequent Toronto Workshop to Identify the Key Elements of a Review of Voluntary Initiatives and Agreements (10–12 March 1999).

9. Although tourism has significant economic benefits for many countries and communities, it also has adverse social and economic impacts in many locations. Concerns in this context included leakage of revenues, low wages, poor working conditions, child labour and sex tourism. Participants emphasized the need to reinvest in local communities, to encourage procurement of local products and services, to promote vocational training and education, and to eliminate the sexual and economic exploitation of women and children. Programmes for retraining and re-employment could provide a social safety net for communities adversely affected by tourism development and should be promoted by Governments, international organizations and major groups. Issues related to the special needs of older tourists who make up a growing number of travellers were also raised. It was agreed that special attention should be given to implementing existing agreements, codes and regulations that seek to regulate or eliminate these conditions, such as those produced by the International Labour Organization (ILO). On the issue of waste management, there was agreement to make further efforts to reduce packaging waste associated with the travel and tourism industry.

10. Participants agreed that multi-stakeholder participation, openness and transparency at all levels were critical in achieving sustainable tourism. There was particular reference to the positive role that workers and trade unions could play through participation in efforts by business to identify and implement sustainability targets. There was agreement that partnership arrangements and multi-stakeholder processes were appropriate means of participation and cooperation among the stakeholders in the tourism sector.

11. There was general agreement by all participants on the need to develop, implement and use indicators for sustainable tourism. While work is taking place in several different organizations, better focus and coordination of these efforts are required, possibly at the international level, keeping in mind the need to base any indicator sets on local

conditions and priorities. Identifying the limits to social and environmental carrying capacity in tourism destinations was highlighted as an important priority. The Commission on Sustainable Development should play a role in promoting agreement on tourism indicators that incorporate environmental, cultural and social criteria. The need for reliable information and identification of best practices by industry was highlighted.

12. It was emphasized that a global framework and plan of action for sustainable tourism must be coupled with implementation and decision-making at the local level, as well as at the regional and national levels. The value of Local Agenda 21 as an enabling framework for partnerships was recognized. Local Agenda 21 planning is an established mechanism for facilitating multi-stakeholder cooperation, and can be effectively employed in tourist destinations to promote sustainable tourism practices. Participants noted with appreciation the new Memorandum of Understanding signed by ICLEI and WTTC to integrate the principles of *Agenda 21 for the Travel and Tourism Industry* and Local Agenda 21 planning to support sustainable development in major tourism destinations around the world.

C. Influencing consumer behaviour

13. Participants emphasized the importance of education as a tool to influence consumer and producer behaviour so as to promote sustainable tourism, particularly when education efforts and related educational materials are developed and applied through multi-stakeholder participation and cooperation. Local Agenda 21 programmes, workplace-based partnerships for education planning and actions for change, non-governmental organization networks, tourism industry associations, educators and educational institutions, tourism information centres, and national and international institutions of education were identified as important channels for sustainable tourism education.

14. Education efforts should focus not only on travellers but also on investors, workers and host communities. Special attention needs to be given to young people and their participation both as recipients of education and as partners in developing education programmes. It was emphasized that these efforts should be applied in both formal and informal education. The ultimate goal of sustainable tourism education should be to move all relevant actors from short-term to long-term thinking and planning.

15. There was agreement that Governments, the tourism industry and other stakeholders should establish programmes to raise public awareness about the impact of tourists on destinations, to promote respect for local communities and their cultures, and to protect the environment. At the invitation of industry representatives, participants agreed to support the "Dodo" education project of WTTC and World Wide Fund for Nature International (WWF), and to participate in development of other, similar programmes. The value of workplace-based programmes to educate workers both as tourists and as service providers for travel and tourism was highlighted. The importance of ensuring that such programmes involved local communities and were relevant to individual destinations and local cultures was noted. Participants endorsed, as a specific initiative, the proposal of local authorities to develop, through multi-stakeholder engagement, destination-specific in-flight educational videos introducing travellers to sustainable tourism practices, and to promote their extensive use by airlines.

16. Some participants expressed concern about the role of the media and the advertising industry, noting the impact they have on consumer perceptions and behaviour. Participants agreed that the media should be encouraged to act as an agent for influencing positive consumer behaviour. Governments were urged to encourage advertising messages that were consistent with sustainable development principles and objectives.

17. There was considerable interest on the part of participants in the global code of ethics being developed by the World Tourism Organization. Multi-stakeholder participation in its development, implementation and monitoring should be encouraged. It was also proposed that a sustainable tourism covenant, to be developed with major groups' participation, could promote higher standards of tourist behaviour.

18. Several programmes for certification of voluntary initiatives were noted. Some concern was expressed about the proliferation of such schemes without international guidelines to assist consumers and producers in understanding their value and effectiveness. There was broad agreement on the need for a set of international guidelines to promote international consistency and provide decision-making tools for consumers and communities. The inclusion of an education component in tourism industry initiatives should be seen as a key criterion in such certification schemes. Several participants emphasized that criteria used in certification schemes should meet or exceed minimum national standards, where they exist, and should include social, cultural and economic aspects as well as environmental considerations. It was emphasized that multi-stakeholder engagement in developing, implementing,

promoting and monitoring such schemes would increase their effectiveness.

19. Several participants endorsed de-marketing strategies as a means to protect sensitive or fragile destinations from damage through overloading. Such strategies could include pricing orientation, omission from guidebooks and promotion among consumers of other tourist sites. De-marketing strategies that influence societal values can take place in both originating and destination counties.

20. Participants supported the idea of an inter-agency effort, with stakeholder participation, to look at current activities aimed at influencing consumer behaviour and improving consumer advocacy. This effort would consider how to enhance the effectiveness of existing initiatives and activities, as well as research and evaluate the impact of price mechanisms and legislation on consumer behaviour. A report on the results of this work could be submitted to the Commission on Sustainable Development in 2002.

21. Several participants highlighted the link between tourism and health in the context of contagious diseases. Participants attached importance to the involvement of the tourism industry in efforts to address health issues associated with tourism, including human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) and other contagious and infectious diseases.

D. Promoting broad-based sustainable development through tourism while safeguarding the integrity of local cultures and protecting the environment

22. Promoting broad-based sustainable development through tourism while safeguarding the integrity of local cultures and protecting the environment requires an effective partnership between key stakeholders at the local, national, regional and international levels and participation at all levels of tourism planning, development and assessment. The need to develop employer-employee partnerships (including trade unions) with multi-stakeholder support and funding was endorsed.

23. Establishment of a multi-stakeholder working group was proposed and endorsed by several groups. It could work in collaboration with relevant United Nations agencies and organizations. It might consider such issues as (a) financial leakages and how to maximize benefits for local communities, (b) preparing a joint initiative to improve information availability and capacity-building for participation, thus enabling communities to manage social and environmental change and (c) developing a plan to ensure indigenous peoples and other local communities their rights to land, water and other natural resources. The initial results of this working group could be reported to the Commission at its eighth session in 2000.

24. There was considerable concern about the challenges of globalization. Participants felt that multi-stakeholder participation could help mitigate the effects of globalization. The principle of local community participation in decision-making was endorsed. Participants took note of the differences in the objectives of the World Trade Organization and Agenda 21.[2]

25. There was broad agreement that the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities should be respected. Several participants noted that the use of indigenous or local cultures as a "product" to market must be approached with sensitivity, and should include the participation in decision-making of those groups affected by this. Measures to combat the illegal trade in cultural goods, such as the issuing of certificates of origin, should be considered. It was suggested that certification schemes include criteria on local and indigenous participation.

26. In discussing education as an essential tool, participants endorsed the proposal for stakeholders to jointly develop, and employ musicians and other artists to promote, Agenda 21 and sustainable tourism. They asked Governments to join them in this initiative and support the development of networks to provide sustainable development, generally.

27. It was agreed that local authorities and local communities must play the key role in determining their "carrying capacity" for tourism development. There should not be a globally imposed limit and decisions should be based on multi-stakeholder processes at the local level. Different locations will face different requirements and problems. Considerations of carrying capacity should include economic, social, cultural and environmental dimensions. Decisions should be made based on the principle of prior informed consent. While not all participants endorsed "eco-taxes", there was support for appropriate pricing of resources, aimed at reflecting the true costs of goods and services. Industry should, in particular, pay its fair share to maintain the natural and cultural assets that tourists wanted to utilize.

E. Coastal impact of tourism

28. Participants recognized that many sustainable development issues are focused around coastal systems, and that tourism is a crucial sector in coastal areas. The particular importance of the coastal impact of tourism on small island developing States (SIDS) was noted, as was the significant challenge posed to coastal communities by climate change.

29. In discussing integrated coastal zone management, participants agreed that there were real biophysical limits to capacity in any particular location as well as cultural limits that should be determined at the local level by the local community. The need for decisions to be made at a local level through a multi-stakeholder process with regard to national and international frameworks was endorsed. Non-governmental organizations proposed the establishment of a multi-stakeholder group at the international level to advise on the planning and implementation of a fully integrated process of coastal tourism development and offered to launch this mechanism in collaboration with government, industry, trade unions and other major groups. Workplace-based planning was proposed as a way to influence consumer habits and choices. Schemes of coastal awards to local coastal communities, such as the Blue Flag campaign in Europe, were highlighted as an effective incentive mechanism to encourage high-quality coastal zone management. It was proposed that new tourism developments should be required to include all relevant sustainable development considerations, including design and implementation of a comprehensive waste management programme.

30. In discussing financial responsibility for infrastructure development and other costs associated with sustainable coastal tourism, participants agreed that the level of financial responsibility from industry and other stakeholders should be determined at the local level. Where local authorities decided to provide public subsidies for infrastructure development or maintenance associated with tourism activities, the nature of the decision should be explicitly understood by the community that would bear the costs, and the decision should involve the local community through a transparent multi-stakeholder process. Participants supported the polluter pays principle. While many participants noted that subsidies could impose costs on the local community, several noted that subsidies could also be beneficial.

31. A variety of measures aimed at mobilizing resources were mentioned, including fast-tracking the Global Environment Facility (GEF), achieving agreement on cost- and profit-sharing formulas for all stakeholders, and encouraging the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and other bodies to help address consequences of coastal infrastructure development by making available information on practical sustainable development technologies and ways to monitor the coastal impact of tourism.

32. It was suggested that the Commission on Sustainable Development should invite and seek funding from international agencies such as the World Bank and regional development banks for pilot projects in both the North and the South aimed at illustrating best practices of integrated planning. Some participants emphasized that these programmes should integrate Agenda 21 for travel and tourism with Local Agenda 21 programmes and should serve as benchmarks.

33. In discussing indicators, participants proposed that the Commission on Sustainable Development should encourage international agencies to develop indicators to measure the environmental, social and cultural impacts of coastal tourism. Indicators should be open to independent auditing and placed within a transparent, open framework where stakeholders' various responsibilities were clearly defined. Workshops were noted as a useful tool for disseminating information derived from indicators.

34. Participants agreed that the Commission on Sustainable Development should facilitate funding from international agencies such as the World Bank and from national Governments for integrated environmental, social and economic research on best management practices in regard to design, development and management of tourism projects in coastal regions.

35. Regarding the role of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), industry representatives proposed that the Commission on Sustainable Development should encourage international agencies, national Governments and industry to fund and support small and medium-sized enterprises in respect of their implementing environmental improvement measures.

36. Local authority representatives proposed that regional coastal management agencies be established, where appropriate, to act as a mechanism for managing coastal area planning. Alternatively, private foundations or non-governmental organizations could take the lead. They also called for a shift from a growth-based economic model to a steady state model.

37. Participants recommended that the Commission on Sustainable Development consider asking the International

Maritime Organization (IMO), with other relevant international agencies, to investigate the enforcement and application of internationally agreed standards and regulations relating to threats to sustainable development/the environment caused by shipping, with particular attention to coastal areas. Some participants noted that flags-of-convenience vessels, including cruise liners servicing tourists, represented an area of particular concern.

38. Union representatives expressed concern at the impact of the recent growth in tourist-related or recreational fishing on traditional and indigenous fishing rights. They also called on the Commission on Sustainable Development to support the right of workers to act as whistle-blowers in respect of unsustainable practices by industry and to promote the protection of workers who acted as such.

Notes

[1] The dialogue segment topics at the Commission on Sustainable Development are drawn from the multi-year programme of work, grouped under the heading of "economic sector/major groups". These topics then become the focus of a twofold process including (a) an intergovernmental debate, based on the report of the Secretary-General and coordinated by the Commission secretariat in close collaboration with relevant United Nations agencies and (b) a multi-stakeholder dialogue, based on the "dialogue starter" papers prepared by the major groups involved in the dialogue in collaboration with the Commission secretariat.

[2] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

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Economic and Social Council

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26 April 1999

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Commission on Sustainable Development
Seventh session
19–30 April 1999
Agenda item 9
Other matters

Russian Federation: draft resolution

Sustainable development in the region of the Balkans

The Commission on Sustainable Development

1. *Expresses its grave concern* with:

(a) The unfolding of an environmental crisis in the region of the Balkans as a result of the destruction of chemical, oil and other industries in Yugoslavia;

(b) The social and humanitarian consequences resulting from an unprecedented increase of the number of refugees and displaced persons in Yugoslavia and in the neighbouring countries;

(c) The undermining of the social and economic infrastructure which endangers the overall prospects of sustainable development of the region of the Balkans;

2. *Calls upon* all parties involved to stop all actions that aggravate further the environmental, social and humanitarian situation in the region;

3. *Urges* the United Nations system to undertake immediate measures to address the current and long-term sustainable development problems of Yugoslavia and of the neighbouring countries in light of the current situation;

4. *Calls upon* the United Nations Environment Programme, working in collaboration with relevant international and non-governmental organizations, to undertake, as a matter of urgency, a comprehensive assessment of the environmental consequences of the present situation in the region and identify the actions that the international community needs to undertake in order to overcome them.

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Commission on Sustainable Development
Seventh session
19–30 April 1999
Agenda item 5
Economic sector/major group: tourism

Draft decision submitted by the Vice-Chairman, Mr. Navid Hanif (Pakistan), on the basis of informal consultations

Tourism and sustainable development

The Commission on Sustainable Development,

Recalling the outcome of the nineteenth special session of the General Assembly for the overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21,[1] in particular Assembly resolution S/19-2, annex, of 28 June 1997, in paragraph 69 of which the Assembly requested the Commission on Sustainable Development to develop an action-oriented international programme of work on sustainable tourism development, to be defined in cooperation with the World Tourism Organization, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Environment Programme, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity[2] and other relevant bodies; and stressed that policy development and implementation should take place in cooperation with all interested parties, especially the private sector and local and indigenous communities,

Recalling also that the General Assembly, in its resolution 53/200 of 15 December 1998, proclaimed the year 2002 as the International Year of Ecotourism and in its resolution 53/24 of 10 November 1998 proclaimed 2002 also as the International Year of Mountains,

Noting with appreciation the outcome of the multi-stakeholder dialogue at the current session of the Commission and the progress made so far by major groups in promoting sustainable tourism development,

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[1] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

[2] See United Nations Environment Programme, *Convention on Biological Diversity* (Environment Law and Institution Programme Activity Centre), June 1992.

99-12382 (E) 290499

1. *Decides* to adopt an international work programme on sustainable tourism development, containing the elements outlined below and to begin its implementation with appropriate means and resources, especially for developing countries, which will be reviewed in 2002 when the ten-year review of progress achieved since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development will be carried out;

2. *Urges* Governments:

(a) To advance sustainable tourism development, *inter alia,* through the development and implementation of policies and national strategies or master plans for sustainable tourism development based on Agenda 21, which will encourage their tourism industry, assist in attracting foreign direct investment and appropriate environmentally sound technologies, and also provide focus and direction for the active participation of major groups, including national tourism councils and, as appropriate, tourism agencies and organizations, and the private sector as well as indigenous and local communities;

(b) To consult, as appropriate, with all major groups and local communities in the tourism development process, including policy formulation, planning, management and sharing of benefits, which could reflect the need to harmonize the relationship among the people, the community and the environment;

(c) To work in partnership with major groups, especially at the local level, to ensure active participation in tourism-related planning and development;

(d) To undertake capacity-building work with indigenous and local communities in order to facilitate their active participation, at all levels of the tourism development process, including transparent decision-making and sharing of benefits, and to create awareness of the social, economic and environmental costs and benefits that they are bearing;

(e) To create the appropriate institutional, legal, economic, social and environmental framework by developing and applying a mix of instruments, as appropriate, such as integrated land-use planning and coastal zone management, economic instruments, social and environmental impact assessment for tourist facilities, including gender aspects, and voluntary initiatives and agreements;

(f) To maximize the potential of tourism for eradicating poverty by developing appropriate strategies in cooperation with all major groups, and indigenous and local communities;

(g) To welcome the major groups' agreement to promote sustainable tourism development through music, art and drama and to participate in such educational activities;

(h) To facilitate destination-specific in-flight educational videos and other materials on sustainable development in relation to tourism and to encourage airline carriers to routinely screen such videos on all international and long-haul domestic routes;

(i) To promote a favourable framework for small and medium-sized enterprises, the major engine for job creation in the tourism sector, by reducing administrative burdens, facilitating access to capital and providing training in management and other skills, in recognition of the employment potential of sustainable tourism development;

(j) To take strong and appropriate action, through the development and enforcement of specific legislation/measures, against any kind of illegal, abusive or exploitative tourist activity, including sexual exploitation/abuse, in recognition of the fact that such activities have particularly adverse impacts and pose significant social, health and cultural threats, and that all countries have a role to play in the efforts to stamp them out;

(k) To participate in international and regional processes that address issues relevant to sustainable tourism development; to consider the ratification or adoption, and promote the implementation and enforcement, as appropriate, of standards or guidelines relevant to the travel and tourism industry, such as in the labour and health fields; and to support initiatives, especially through organizations like the International Labour Organization and the World Health Organization, that would make an early and positive contribution to sustainable tourism development;

(l) To support appropriate measures to better inform tourists about cultural, ecological and other values and provide accurate information on the safety of tourist destinations, so as to enable consumers to make informed choices;

3. *Calls upon* the tourism industry:

(a) To develop environmentally, socially and culturally compatible forms of tourism and to continue the development and implementation of voluntary initiatives in support of sustainable tourism development, bearing in mind that such forms of tourism and initiatives should meet, or preferably exceed, relevant local, national, regional or international standards;

(b) To further commit itself to the goal of sustainable tourism development by working towards guiding principles and objectives for sustainable tourism development and information for tourists on ecological and cultural values in destination regions;

(c) To further develop voluntary eco-efficiency and appropriate management systems to save costs and to promote sustainable forms of tourism;

(d) To take effective steps to reduce the volume of waste associated with travel and tourism activities;

(e) To "design with nature" in collaboration with planning authorities, by using low impact designs, materials and technologies, so as not to damage the environmental or cultural assets that tourists seek to experience and that sustain the local community, and to undertake measures to restore tourist destinations with degraded environments;

(f) To distance itself publicly from illegal, abusive or exploitive forms of tourism;

(g) To meet or preferably exceed relevant national or international labour standards;

4. *Invites,* as appropriate, Governments and major groups, as well as the United Nations system, in close collaboration with the World Tourism Organization, while building on relevant work carried out by the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the International Labour Organization and the United Nations Development Programme and under the Convention on Biological Diversity and other relevant conventions and organizations, and taking note of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[3] adopted at Barbados in 1994, to consider undertaking the following initiatives and to keep the Commission on Sustainable Development informed on progress achieved:

(a) To promote sustainable tourism development in order to increase the benefits from the tourism resources for the population in the host communities and maintain the cultural and environmental integrity of the host community; to encourage cooperation of

[3] *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April–6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap I, resolution 1, annex II.

major groups at all levels with a view to facilitating Local Agenda 21 initiatives and promoting linkages within the local economy in order that benefits may be more widely shared; to this end, greater efforts should be undertaken for the employment of the local workforce, and the use of local products and skills;

(b) To support national efforts by countries, especially developing countries and countries with economies in transition, and major groups towards sustainable tourism development through relevant capacity-building activities and programmes as well as multilateral and bilateral financial and technical assistance, and appropriate technologies in all aspects of sustainable tourism development, including environmental impact assessment and management and education in the field of tourism;

(c) To encourage more responsible behaviour among tourists through ensuring respect for national laws, cultural values, social norms and tradition as well as by increasing public awareness, in addition to other measures;

(d) To promote the application of integrated planning approaches to tourism development at the local level, including through encouraging the use of Local Agenda 21 as a process for planning, implementing and monitoring sustainable tourism development and recognizing the potential for integration of Local Agenda 21 with Agenda 21 for the Travel and Tourism Industry as well as other such initiatives;

(e) To provide relevant direction on research activities, and collect and disseminate information on best practices and techniques, including an appropriate mix of instruments to minimize negative and to promote positive environmental, social and cultural impacts from tourism in developed and developing countries and in countries with economies in transition;

(f) To promote the exchange of information on transportation, accommodation and other services, public awareness raising programmes and education, and various voluntary initiatives and ways to minimize the effects of natural disasters on tourism. Possible forms of this information exchange should be explored in consultation with relevant partners, utilizing, *inter alia,* such means as bilateral and multi-lateral arrangements;

(g) To undertake studies on appropriate measures for promoting sustainable tourism development, such as community planning in fragile ecosystems, including in coastal areas, and to develop tools to assist local authorities in determining appropriate management regimes and their capacity for tourism development;

(h) To further develop or support integrated initiatives, preferably through pilot projects, to enhance the diffusion of innovations and to avoid, wherever possible, duplication and waste of resources;

(i) To undertake activities that would be supportive of the preparations for both the International Year of Ecotourism and the International Year of Mountains, as well as activities of the International Coral Reef Initiative;

(j) To clarify further the concepts of sustainable tourism and ecotourism;

(k) To develop core indicators for sustainable tourism development, taking into account the work of the World Tourism Organization and other relevant organizations, as well as the ongoing testing phase of indicators for sustainable development;

(l) To undertake a comprehensive survey and assessment of the results of implementing existing voluntary initiatives and guidelines relating to the economic, sociocultural and environmental sustainability of tourism, to be reported to the Commission

on Sustainable Development in order to identify best practices with respect to raising awareness of sustainable tourism development;

(m) To consider establishing a global network, taking into account the work of the World Tourism Organization, regional mechanisms and all major groups, as appropriate, to promote an exchange of information and views on sustainable tourism development, including on ecotourism;

(n) To cooperate with the United Nations Environment Programme in further developing guiding principles for sustainable tourism development;

(o) To encourage business and industry to take steps to implement eco-efficiency approaches, in order to reduce environmental impacts associated with travel and tourism activities, in particular the volume of packaging waste, especially in small island developing States;

5. *Invites* the World Tourism Organization to consider informed major groups' participation, as appropriate, in the development, implementation and monitoring of its Global Code of Ethics for Tourism, including those provisions relating to a code of conduct for tourists;

6. *Invites* relevant agencies, particularly the International Maritime Organization, to evaluate whether existing regulations on marine pollution and compliance with them are sufficient to provide adequate protection to fragile coastal zones from adverse impacts as a result of tourist vessel activities;

7. *Invites* the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to further consider, in the context of the process of the exchange of experiences, existing knowledge and best practice on sustainable tourism development and biological diversity with a view to contributing to international guidelines for activities related to sustainable tourism development in vulnerable terrestrial, marine and coastal ecosystems and habitats of major importance for biological diversity and protected areas, including fragile mountain ecosystems;

8. *Welcomes* the work of major groups, especially the business community, trade and tourism industry associations, non-governmental organizations and other groups involved in travel and tourism, to contribute to efforts to achieve sustainable tourism development, including through educational initiatives and action plans based on Agenda 21 and other related documents, and particularly welcomes their commitment through the continuation of their work with all major groups, to do more, and to report to the Commission on Sustainable Development on their progress;

9. *Invites* the United Nations Secretariat and the World Tourism Organization, in consultation with major groups and other relevant international organizations, to jointly facilitate the establishment of an ad hoc informal open-ended working group on tourism to assess financial leakages and determine how to maximize benefits for indigenous and local communities; and to prepare a joint initiative to improve information availability and capacity-building for participation, and address other matters relevant to the implementation of the international work programme on sustainable tourism development.